

ramps, and adapts vehicles for disabled drivers. As the 2002 United States EPA Energy Star Small Business award winner, Paratransit is committed to clean energy and a sustainable environment. Its Sacramento facility contains a storm water retention system. They have an expansive recycling program for all waste coolant, motor oil, transmission fluid, batteries, metals and tires. Committed to improving air quality, Paratransit joined with Hybrid Technologies in 2007 to produce the world's first full lithium-powered PT Cruisers.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby recognize and commend Paratransit for their outstanding commitment and service to our community. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing this fine organization continued success and support as they work to provide seamless transportation options and other important services for everyone in the Sacramento Region.

DEATH BENEFITS BILL H.J. RES.
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HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we lost five warriors on the battlefield of Afghanistan recently. They were 25-year-old 1st Lt. Jennifer M. Moreno; 24-year-old Pfc. Cody J. Patterson; 24-year-old Special Agent Joseph M. Peters; 25-year-old Sgt. Patrick C. Hawkins; and 19-year-old Lance Cpl. Jeremiah M. Collins, Jr.

Unfortunately, their families were given the news not only that they had lost their loved ones, but they were also told that they would not be given the \$100,000 in death benefits that they were entitled to receive within three days of the death of their loved ones.

The \$100,000 payment is being withheld from the families—two of them Army Rangers—and one Marine and the bodies of the five warriors will be returned to Dover Air Force Base today. Congress needs to act NOW to rectify this absurd and disgraceful situation.

This money helps the families by giving them an immediate source of cash to help get through the tough times surrounding the funeral of their loved ones.

The Pentagon says it has specific instructions from its budget office not to make payments for deaths that occurred after 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 30, 2013—the date of the start of the government shutdown.

Congress passed a bill last week which should have made it clear that the Pentagon had the authority to make these kinds of payments, however this Administration continues to play politics with this shutdown and has apparently directed DOD not to make these payments.

In order to make it ABUNDANTLY clear that DOD has the authority to make these payments, I thank the Speaker for quickly bringing this bill up to the floor.

It is my hope that the Senate quickly passes this bill, and the President signs it. There is no excuse that any other American hero's family is told that they will not get the death benefit they deserve.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE NEW HAVEN MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many who have gathered to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the New Haven Manufacturers Association—a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization. Their leadership, vision, and advocacy have not only served to promote and expand manufacturing opportunities in New Haven County, but have become integral to how our communities and policy makers address manufacturing needs across Connecticut.

As one of the oldest states in our great nation, Connecticut has a long and rich history. At the heart of our state's economic history is a strong manufacturing foundation. Connecticut is incredibly proud of that heritage and can boast of many firsts in manufacturing: the first cotton gin, patented by Eli Whitney; the first factory town in America, planned and established in Seymour; the first movable parts mass production in use, making clocks; the first industrial training school, established by John Holbrook in Derby; as well as the production of the first revolver, portable typewriter, sewing machine, vacuum cleaner, Poloroid camera, color television, and helicopter. Our state's manufacturing industry has and continues to be an important part of our economic success.

For one hundred years the NHMA has been a strong voice on behalf of New Haven County manufacturers—ensuring that public officials and communities understand the importance of the industry to our economy, that manufacturing employees have access to ongoing training and development resources, and that those schools and programs responsible for training the next generation of these skilled workers are able to do so with the most up-to-date technology and machinery. Over the course of my tenure in Congress I have had many opportunities to work with the NHMA as well as to visit many of their member companies to see first-hand the innovative work they are undertaking. We worked together to bring funding to Platt Regional Vocational Technical High School which financed new machinery for the school's manufacturing program and I have been proud to support their idea of the creation of manufacturing re-investment accounts which are aimed at reducing the financial burdens our smaller manufacturers face as they seek to expand their businesses.

Their dedication and good work has helped to preserve our state's rich manufacturing history, provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, issues and best practices among their members, and advocate for public policies that enhance manufacturing as a whole. Today, as they celebrate their centennial anniversary, I am proud to rise and join the many community and business leaders who have gathered in extending my heartfelt congratulations and very best wishes to the New Haven Manufacturers Association. Happy 100th Anniversary.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF FORMER MINNESOTA SENATOR ROD GRAM

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to the family and friends of former U.S. Senator Rod Grams who represented Minnesota from 1995 to 2001. He had previously been elected to the U.S. House in 1992 where he served one term. Senator Grams passed away last night at home in Crown, MN. He was 65 years old.

Senator Grams was a Republican who fought hard for the issues he believed in and worked to find common ground on issues that concerned Minnesotans. Before entering politics Sen. Grams was a well known television newscaster in the Twin Cities. I remember watching him frequently.

While serving in the U.S. House and Senate I did not have contact with Sen. Grams, but following his time in elected office I had many interactions with him as he represented various private clients. I always found Rod Grams to be a kind and engaging man who cared deeply about Minnesota.

The public service provided by Senator Rod Grams is to be honored and respected. He was a conservative who cared about Minnesota and its people. Again, Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to his family, friends, and supporters.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048, 913.08.

Today, it is \$16,747,419,536,935.48. We've added \$6,120,542,488,022.40 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the National Day of the Republic of China. October 10 marks the beginning of the Wuchang Uprising which led to the creation of the Republic of China in 1912.

The Republic of China, or Taiwan as it is more commonly known, has worked tirelessly to become a global player both politically and economically. With a thriving economy, Taiwan already plays a critical role in the global supply chain and serves as a major innovator in the technology industry. I am proud to represent Garmin Ltd. in my district which is an